



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008
TOWN HALL

RICHARD J. CLEARY
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
MICHAEL D. VARNEY
JOSEPH E. WEHR

Board of Finance Members Present: Robert Clements-Chairman, Richard Cleary (arr. 8:15), Mark Joyse, Barry Pinto, Joe Wehr

Board of Finance Members Absent: Michael Varney

Others Present: Nicholas DiCorleto, Finance Officer

Call to Order

Chairman Clements called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

Citizens Forum: None

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Clements read into the record the letter from the Superintendent of Schools regarding his suggested wording clarification for the March 20 hearing of the Board of Education's budget. After discussion it was decided to attach the letter to tonight's minutes for information purposes.

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (WEHR) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO INCLUDE SUPT. CULLINAN'S COMMENTS TO TONIGHT'S MINUTES.

MOTION (PINTO) SECONDED (JOYSE) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, FEBRUARY 5, FEBRUARY 12, MARCH 4, MARCH 19, MARCH 20, MARCH 25, APRIL 8, APRIL 22, APRIL 24 AND MAY 22, 2008 AS WRITTEN.

Mr. Wehr asked if the letters that he and Mr. Joyse had sent to the Superintendent of Schools and First Selectman on May 14, 2008 could be attached to this meeting's minutes. Mr. Clements then expressed his disappointment with the fact that they wrote the letter which gave the impression that the letter was approved by the Board of Finance by their signing as Board of Finance members. He felt that the letter left the Board of Finance's credibility in question. Mr. Wehr and Mr. Joyse left the meeting. There was no vote on the above motion.

The meeting was suspended at 8:15 pm as the Board of Finance did not have a quorum. Mr. Cleary arrived.

Submitted by

Lori Smith
Lori Smith, Clerk

From: Cullinan Stephen [mailto:scullinan@ellingtonschools.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 3:24 PM
To: Michael Stupinski
Cc: Daley Nancy; Littizzio Anthony
Subject: Board of Finance Minutes of March 20, 2008

I have just completed a review of the Board of Finance minutes of March 20, 2008 and request that several corrections be considered. If I should send this request to another town official I request that you forward that information to me.

Page 2 states "Principal Milbury at Windermere School is retiring and the need is to hire two new principals to replace him; one for K-4 and one for 5-6 grades."

That is not accurate and not what was reported to the Board of Finance. The fact is that the search process for his replacement is well underway. In addition the Board of Education has proposed an additional part-time principal (.6 FTE) in its budget. This part-time position has been needed for a number of years but the Board has held off until Mr. Milbury's retirement to implement it. In addition due to the growth and the complexity of our Special Education program the Board of Education is proposing a part-time Supervisor of Special Education (.4 FTE). The administration will search for one person to combine these two part-time positions.

The same page states – "The state is now requiring in school suspension and a paraprofessional needs to be hired." The fact is that the State has enacted legislation that will severely limit the ability of a school to impose out-of-school suspension thus increasing in-school suspensions and thus the need for a paraprofessional position.

The same page states – "2008-2009 Kindergarten at Center School will be 08-09 and will require a third section."

The fact is that to date, the enrollment for Kindergarten at Center School is 76 students, which include 10 special needs students, compared to the current 65 and will require a fourth section.

The same page states "Energy costs continue to increase, the tuition account is an unknown..."

The tuition account is not an unknown it is actually based upon known students and projected costs of actual placements. What are unknown are possible increases to this account due to changes in our student population.

The same page states "Mr. Cullinan explained that he had put in extra in the new salaries in case it is needed to attract highly experienced and qualified candidates."

The fact is that the administrator's contract does not have a tiered step salary schedule but rather has one figure for each position. Thus the amount listed in the budget is the contractual amount listed in the contract. The Board of Education does have the contractual flexibility to start a new administrator at up to 10% less than the listed amount which must be increased over the next two years to get back on step. Not knowing the qualifications and experience of the new principals you need to budget the contractual amount if you are to be successful at attracting highly qualified and experienced candidates.

In the next paragraph it should state that a teacher being moved into the Dean of Students position would be teaching .6 FTE and acting as Dean of Students .4 FTE.

I thank you for considering these changes to the minutes. I am available to answer any questions etc.

Steve Cullinan